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Virginia's Wildlife and Related Natural Resources
and to the Betterment of
Outdoor Recreation in Virginia*

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APRIL

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COVER: The colorful Japanese green pheasant, not a native Virginian but one of the more promising immigrants admitted under the Commission's Foreign Game Bird Introduction Program, is now to be found in a number of thriving local colonies throughout the state; and in some less successful, struggling if not actually straggling populations also. More about Virginia's pheasants on pages 6, 7, and 19. Color photo by Commission photographer Leon G. Kesteloo.

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Tick, Tock

DURING most of a particularly hair-raising drama televised one recent evening, six assorted characters, including the baby born to one of the other five during the ordeal, were trapped in the basement of a demolished building during a London air raid, while a delayed action bomb in the rubble ominously and inexorably "tocked" off the seconds as time ran out. That timer didn't "tick"—it just "tocked."

Today, in a building in Washington, a similar mechanism is synchronized with hidden components of a live time bomb that has potential destructive power unequalled by that of any weapon yet unleashed by man. This one "ticks," as time runs out. It is the Bureau of Census' population clock, whose dials record second by second population gains, as births increase their lead in their race with deaths.

There is much talk but little understanding of the so-called "balance of nature" and man's relationship thereto. The "balance of nature" is essentially a balance between births and deaths among the organisms that make up any biological community. Man himself is a part of nature, and he weighs in her balance. In the ecological sense if not in the cosmic, humanity has become the dominant factor in nature precisely because man has purposely upset the balance between his own birth and death rates—cutting juvenile mortality and lengthening adult life expectancy without achieving an offsetting reduction in fertility. It isn't biology so much as simple arithmetic that dictates that such an upset must result in an escalating rate of population increase until a new balance is struck; and if the new balance is very long in coming, the rate of increase will reach explosive proportions.

No one can be concerned with the management of resources and disregard the consequences of such a trend. More people consume more resources; and at the same time they occupy more space, and remove it from the productive base. This is a double-barreled assault on resource supply-demand stability.

It took humanity ten thousand years just to reach today's population. Now that population is expected to *double*, and *then double again*, during the lifetime of persons already living. In the United States our rate of increase is fourfold per lifetime—more than *sixteenfold in two life-spans!*

It will be quite impossible through wildlife management or any other conservation practices to perpetuate wild populations of native species for their recreational and aesthetic values if this human time bomb "ticks" on until it shatters of its own destructive power. Only that which can tolerate massed humanity in a semi-artificial environment will survive to see the destiny of the race of man fulfilled. Nothing uncompromisingly wild and independent can be conserved. Whatever may be done through technology to feed an ever-growing number of human mouths can but hasten the qualitative deterioration of the natural environment, and further reduce man's opportunity to derive joy and fulfillment from it.

Our time bomb "ticks" out steady gains in births over deaths. On television those trapped with their bomb, including the newborn, were saved when they were able to stop the "tocking" of the infernal mechanism in time. Unless we can stop the "ticking" of ours in time, all efforts to achieve a state of harmony between man and the land are doomed to failure.—J. F. Mc.

Hunters Not Entirely To Blame

CONGRATULATIONS on your February issue. It was one of the best ever published. The letters section was especially enjoyable. However, it seems Tommy Toms was a long ways "off the beam" in one of his ideas.

Toms says, "I believe the hunter is the key figure in the decline of turkey populations."

That is a long established belief that has had more to do with the decline of game populations than anything else. "Hunters done kilt 'em all out," we have been hearing all our lives. It is a malicious untruth.

Habitat destruction by way of clean farming and thoughtless lumbering spell doom to practically all game. One dairy cow can do more damage to quail than three hunters. Drouth, poor nut and acorn crops, and even failure to shoot surplus animals cause declines at times. Gardiner Bump, famous game authority, in his book on the ruffed grouse, points out that in many areas grouse would be more plentiful if more were shot.

In what has always been one of the best turkey populated counties in the state there was no open season for 1964-65. Of course the blame is placed on the hunters as usual. But what are the facts? Why, a big lumber company that has the gall to lease its forests to hunters for a price has destroyed the hardwood trees in order to replace them with pines! With no acorns and other hardwood products the turkey have nothing to eat.

Our game authorities seem to have practiced good turkey management in many areas. This points to the conclusion that lumber interests have refused to listen to good game management advice. They failed to consider all the facts involved. They did not realize that small acreages of hardwoods left among the pines could pay far more in hunting leases than they would in pines.

Just a few years ago we had a quail population explosion in the vicinity of Lynchburg. To my amazement it lasted for three seasons or more. One open season, within walking distance of my camp, less than six miles from city limits, I located 25 coveys of quail.

Now, after three dry, hot, growing seasons of low seed and insect production a hunter is lucky to find one covey.

Again the hunter gets the blame. Posted signs are going up everywhere. Many are hanging up their guns and neglecting good bird dogs. Some did so before the season opened. A few check-ups had revealed the quail scarcity.

Some ten or more years ago a like state of affairs had delegations going to Richmond to request closed seasons. They failed to realize the few smart old birds on hand had already practically closed the seasons.

Let's have more aid for habitat improvement from hunters, merchants, foresters, seed and feed people and less of the old refrain, "Hunters done kilt 'em all out."

Walter L. Rice
Lynchburg

The Case For Space

THROUGHOUT the United States there is an increasing concern for the outdoors. The nation's amazing population growth, urbanization, mobility, and general affluence—indeed, all the things which we call “progress”—are taking a fearful toll of open space.

The National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission did a great deal to focus public attention on the problem with its monumental study. The Commission reported that the demand for outdoor recreation in the U. S. will *double* by 1976 and will *triple* by the year 2000. The trend is the result of four major factors. The nation is expected to double in population, and disposable income is expected to quadruple, between years 1960 and 2000; leisure time is expected to increase significantly, and forecasts suggest an enormous expansion in travel.

For 350 years Virginians have had so much out-of-doors that we have assumed that its beauty and productivity was absolutely permanent. Such is not the case. We have become predominantly urban, and are getting more so. The landscape is being gobbled up, altered for short run purposes or simply removed from the reach of average citizens. Anyone who looks at the factors of growth will recognize that without sound planning and prompt action our children will certainly inherit only a mess of wasted resources, unattractive communities, and a garage full of fancy hunting and fishing equipment with no place to use it.

The Virginia Outdoor Recreation Study Commission was brought into existence by the 1964 General Assembly, which realized that the rapid disappearance of open space will cause a positive decline in the attractive and productive environment that makes Virginia a good place in which to live and work. The Commission consists of 18 members, including four members of the General Assembly and Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries Director Chester F. Phelps, Commissioner of Highways Douglas B. Fugate, and Department of Conservation and Economic Development Director Marvin M. Sutherland, who bring practical administrative experience in management of large segments of our outdoor resources.

Senator FitzGerald Bemiss, chairman; Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., vice-chairman; Delegate Paul Manns, Bowling Green; Meade Palmer, Warrenton; and Dorman M. Miller, Roanoke, comprise the Study Commission's Executive Committee.

Other members include A. Plunkett Bierne, Orange; James L. Camblos, Big Stone Gap, a former member of the General Assembly; Delegate Walter Fidler, Sharps; Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Fairfax County; Cecil F. Gilkerson, Harrisonburg; Mrs. Meriwether Lewis, Clarksville; Floyd K. McKenna, Lynchburg; Delegate George McMath, Onancock; S. Heth Tyler, Norfolk, and Conrad Wirth, former director of the National Park Service. The Commission presents a sound range of experience, talent, and geography.

Two highly competent consultants—John Ormsbee Simonds, of Pittsburgh, and Julian Tarrant, of Richmond—have been retained to advise and assist.

The fact-finding process has begun, with a vengeance. Public hearings have been held in Norfolk, Fairfax County, Roanoke, Harrisonburg, and Richmond in order to get the best possible thinking throughout Virginia on what



Foster Studio photo
State Senator FITZGERALD BEMISS, Chairman
Virginia Outdoor Recreation Study Commission

has been done, what needs to be done, and what tools are necessary to do the job.

Advisory subcommittees are proceeding with studies relating to historic preservation concepts, the intricate problem of flood plain zoning, responsibilities of local authority, access routes and protection of recreation areas at the edge of impounded waters, scenic highways and byways, travel development, and the knotty problem of preferential assessment.

Dr. Gabrielson, president of the Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, and one of the nation's outstanding conservation authorities, has produced a report on Virginia's marshlands, paying special attention to the problems of Back Bay and the seacoast region.

What form will the Commission's final report take?

The Virginia Commission has decided to follow generally the approach of the National Commission, and is conforming generally to standards of the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. There are a number of advantages in staying in step with the Bureau, including coordinated fact-finding, common definitions and standards, and participation in the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

The first section of the study report will contain a statement of purpose, and a general case for the out-of-doors whether it involves a one-acre grass plot in the city, a 5,000-acre Wildlife Management Area, or a view of the James River from the highway. Recreation in this context means all leisure time use of the out-of-doors, not just organized recreation, not state parks, not just hunting and fishing—but these *and* walking, motoring, loafing, and so forth.

The second major section of the report will be made up of facts—an inventory of our resources, including local, regional, state, federal, and private resources. Then the Commission must relate these present resources and facilities to present and future needs. The responsibilities and capacities of state, local, and federal governments also

must be clearly defined.

A third section will set out the Commission's conclusions and recommendations. The decision-making and soul-searching must be completed in time for presentation of the report to Governor Harrison and members of the General Assembly by November 1, 1965.

Without attempting in any way to speculate as to the feelings of individual members of the Commission, it is possible to point out certain elements which would seem to be vital to any well rounded set of proposals for meeting outdoor recreation needs in Virginia.

The report must reflect general acceptance of the concept that the outdoors—open space—is worth something in itself. If all segments of the Virginia population which have specialized interests in the outdoors could get together in selling this one concept, the chances of developing a sound open space program would be considerably brighter.

A program must be visualized which would provide for leisure time use of the total range of outdoor resources from high density neighborhood recreation areas to the most remote and sensitive natural area. There is a natural relationship between the resources of the outdoors which makes the whole far more valuable than the mere sum of its parts.

The state must provide the proper legal tools, the research services, and financial support. Financial support, being translated, means money—money for the solidest sort of blue-chip investment in Virginia fields, streams, outdoor environment, and basic resources. It is an investment as basic as our investment in public education. An orderly program of public land acquisition is a vital and urgent need.

An information and education effort will be required. People need to acquire skills and understandings that enable them to get benefits and satisfactions they seek from outdoor recreation without consuming or destroying the resource base. The development of a natural resources conscience might be given a more prominent place in the public school curriculum; and our college engineering courses might include lectures in landscape architecture aimed at a complementary relationship between a transportation system and an attractive environment.

The Commission's program must be bold and imaginative; new devices must be approached with open mind. We will not get anywhere nibbling at a problem of this size and being timid about new ideas.

The Commission seems determined to come up with something solid and far sighted that should be of lasting value to Virginia. "Our report will be no good at all unless it is built to produce and direct action. We are not just undergoing an exercise in political academics," is the way Commission Chairman Bemiss puts it.

Quantitative progress in Virginia—urbanization, new highways, shopping centers, new industries—threaten established qualitative values. The landscape is being gobbled up. Unless we take steps to direct quantitative progress towards the qualitative, Virginia will be a far less livable place—and, basically, a different place to live—for future generations. Adoption of the program which the Outdoor Recreation Study Commission unveils next November could be the all-important first step in assuring that life in Virginia will become richer and more satisfying as time goes by.



Va. Dept. of Conservation & Economic Development photos



Do Pheasants Have A Future in Virginia?

By JIM MCINTEER
Chief, Education Division

SINCE 1958 more than 22,000 foreign game birds have been released at about 60 carefully chosen sites throughout Virginia in a massive, sustained, scientifically planned and evaluated effort to do what half a century of sporadic and uncoordinated attempts have failed to do—namely, to establish self-sustaining wild populations of exotic birds to augment the native species of the state.

It would be foolhardy to claim full success for the foreign bird introduction program at this point, but prospects of eventual success do become brighter as each year's evaluation of past efforts is made. "Good" or "fair" prospects already exist for species and strains released in 18 counties, while colonies of birds now judged to have "poor" prospects have been put down in 9 counties. Releases in an additional 8 counties have been too recent for evaluation.

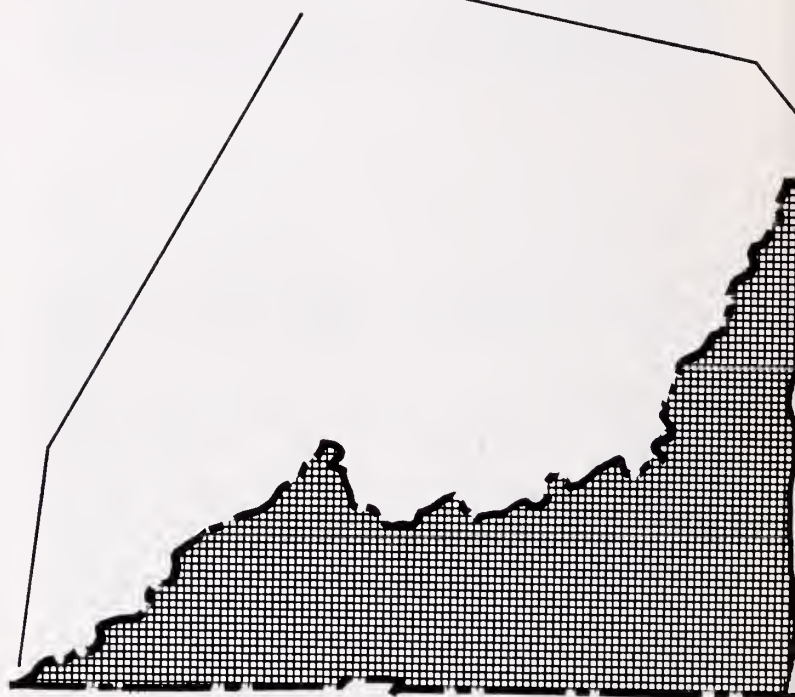
There is an element of urgency in finding and establishing in Virginia the right species and strains of non-native small game. Our land is richly endowed with wildlife resources, and finer game birds than our natives do not exist. So long as good native game habitat was plentiful, and hunters relatively few, there was no need to covet the colorful gamesters of other lands. But man-made changes in the rural landscape have a profound effect upon game populations, and not always for the best. Marginal and sub-marginal farming enterprises have given way to forestry over much of the state, and agriculture has tended toward consolidation and efficiency in the face of economic competition. Thousands of small fields and clearings interspersed with brushy fencerows and weedy strips of fallow land have given way in the past few years either to forests or to large, heavily grazed pasture and intensively cultivated field crops. Farm game populations have declined accordingly. And as civilization has pushed its fingers far into the wilderness, the ruffed grouse, a bird intolerant of close association with man, has been pushed back into a more and more restricted range.

Still, the interest in hunting grows, and if the demand for this form of outdoor recreation is to continue to be met, we cannot afford to leave unproductive the vast areas of Virginia that are no longer prime habitat for native small game species. It was this realization that led to the beginning of the foreign game introduction program in 1958, designed to match evolving habitat conditions in Virginia with the natural environment of foreign species and thus find the right game birds to fit the new ecological niches that are being created from the seashore to the mountains and which our native farm game and woodland species cannot fully utilize.

This approach to foreign game bird introduction has brought good prospects of success. So far the Japanese green pheasant has done well on the Eastern Shore and in Lancaster, Nansemond, and Northumberland counties. A western Iranian blackneck pheasant (both a pure strain and a Chinese ringneck/blackneck hybrid) is producing encouraging results in Charles City, Campbell, Charlotte,



KALIJ
PHEASANT



Lessons learned, through both successes and failures, about adaptability of various species and strains of exotics to conditions in the several sections of Virginia, are even more important to the future of pheasants in the state than the number of birds already established in the wild. Tidewater, the northern tier of counties, and the Shenandoah Valley now are regarded as suitable areas for extending stocking efforts with

Cumberland, Greensville, Nelson, New Kent, Nottoway, and Prince George Counties. An eastern Iranian blackneck (both pure and crossed with the Chinese ringneck) has been less successful but has produced breeding colonies in Orange and Page counties. In its initial showing the kalij pheasant has looked good in ruffed grouse habitat in Giles County.

More important than these initial successes in themselves, however, are the lessons learned so far about the matching of these various species and strains with segments of the Virginia environment. Based upon these lessons all of the Virginia Appalachia region is now being considered

Foreign Game Bird Introductions By Species and Counties, 1958 - 1964



JAPANESE
GREEN PHEASANT

Eastern Iranian blackneck pheasant
Orange, Cumberland

Eastern Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Halifax, Campbell, Nelson, Cumberland, Charlotte,
Goochland, Fluvanna, Page, Powhatan, King George

Western Iranian blackneck pheasant
New Kent, King William, Cumberland, Surry, Isle of
Wight

Western Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Surry, Charles City, Nottoway, Buckingham, Prince
George, Richmond, Campbell, Halifax, Greensville,
Cumberland, Hanover, Chesterfield, Charlotte, Nelson

Japanese green pheasant
Norfolk, Accomack, Northampton, Cumberland, Hen-
rico, Lancaster, New Kent, Northumberland, Nanse-
mond, Loudoun, Shenandoah, Fauquier

Kalij pheasant
Giles, Henry

Black francolin partridge
Surry, Cumberland, Lancaster, Halifax

the Japanese green pheasant; the fringe areas of all present ruffed grouse habitat throughout Virginia's Appalachian region is considered potentially suitable for the kalij pheasant; and most of the area between these likely green and kalij pheasant ranges now will receive more extensive experimental releases of various strains of Iranian black-neck pheasants.

potential kalij pheasant habitat, and in future releases effort will be shifted to stocking grouse-like habitat on all the fringes of current normal ruffed grouse range. Japanese green pheasant introductions will be extended north and west in the tidewater counties, and Iranian blackneck strains will be tried throughout most of the state in between the areas currently allocated for the kalij and Japanese green. Lack of good results with the francolin partridge to date will result in a shifting of stocking efforts with this species to less wooded and more grassland type environments in Southside Piedmont Virginia.

Introduction of an exotic species is never a "sure fire" undertaking, but with careful preliminary biological appraisals, thorough follow-up studies and analysis of results, and a persistent effort to find or develop exactly the right species and strains for our environments, we can look forward with some hope for the day when every acre of woodland and farmland in Virginia may be producing its share of upland game birds and its share of hunting opportunity for the sportsman to enjoy.

(Continued on page 19)

Fee Fishing Proves Popular

Photos by the Author



By HARRY L. GILLAM
Information Officer

THE surety of knowing that trout are there and that they usually will bite is a lure which keeps anglers coming back to the Game Commission's fee fishing area on Big Tumbling Creek in the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area. When a man knows a hole where he can always find trout, it's hard to keep him away, even if those fish may have been put there by someone as recently as the night before.

During the five months of last year that the Commission's pay-as-you-go fishing project was in operation on Clinch Mountain, anglers caught 44,444 trout, or 86% of the 51,948 released. The average creel was 2.6 per trip, an efficient return on the fisherman's investment when one considers that the trout cost nearly 30¢ apiece to raise.

The fee fishing facility on the wildlife management area near Saltville, opened last season on May 2 and operated daily through October 4, will reopen for the 1965 season concurrently with the opening of the regular state-wide trout season. Anglers are required to purchase a \$1.00 daily permit in addition to the appropriate fishing license, such as county combination hunting and fishing, state resident or non-resident fishing, or 3 day trip fishing license. Regular state trout licenses, however, are *not* required to fish in the area. During the season 17,387 daily permits were sold.

The fee fishing area includes 4 miles of Big Tumbling Creek which is stocked regularly throughout the fishing season. Fish holding facilities on the area provide an adequate supply of trout for immediate needs at all times. Trucks bring in fish regularly from rearing stations when they are needed to replenish those used from the holding ponds.

Fishing hours extend until 6:30-7:30 at night depending on the time of the year. After fishing closes, fish are restocked for the next day's angling. An ingenious system of cable trolleys allows fish to be transported from truck to stream in remote gorge stretches. The number of fish stocked is based on the number creeled by anglers during the day, and thus a rather stable, high trout population is maintained.

A good all-weather road with parking areas and pull-offs has been constructed along the stream. Nearly every point on the stream is within easy walking distance of this road. This feature also facilitates uniform stocking.



Anglers are required to purchase a one-dollar daily permit at the checking station in addition to their fishing license before fishing on the area. Permits will be sold in advance in 1965 for the benefit of campers.

As an additional service to fishermen and others using the Clinch Mountain Area, a camp ground has been constructed on the headwaters of Big Tumbling Creek through the cooperation of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Economic Development, Division of State Parks. There are 20 developed sites in the camping area, each equipped with cooking grates, tables, garbage cans, and firewood. Centrally located are rest rooms and a well, equipped with a hand pump. Located some seven and one-half miles from the checking station, the area is blessed with the solitude of uninhabited mountains. A charge of \$1.50 per night is made for camping on the area, with up to 6 persons allowed per party.

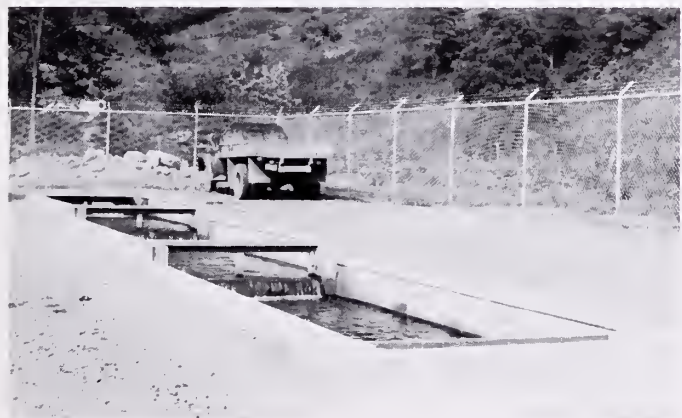
In 1965, the fee-fishing section will open at noon, April 3 along with the regular state-wide trout season. Plans are to operate the facility in much the same manner as proved successful during 1964. The policy on selling permits will be modified to allow purchase of permits for more than one day at a time. This will be of prime benefit to those camping on the premises since it will eliminate the necessity of the seven mile drive to the checking station each morning. Arriving anglers must pass the checking station anyway.

The pay-as-you-go concept is about the only means of providing more and better trout fishing in Virginia (with anglers allowed to keep their fish) without a hike in basic license fees. The state-wide trout stocking program has just recently reached the self-sustaining level through economies effected in trout rearing. With the pay-as-you-go system, those who want to foot the bill for more productive trout fishing throughout the season may have it without penalizing other anglers.



Aerial tramways allow fish to be lowered from the truck to a man on the stream below who distributes them.

Holding ponds on the area provide trout for constant stocking according to the number creelied daily.



APRIL, 1965



Trout may often be seen darting about in the deep dark pools, and the patient angler may creel more than one from such a spot.

The pay-as-you-go area in Clinch Mountain has proven itself in its first year of operation. Fishermen were satisfied with the angling provided, and receipts were adequate to make the facility self sustaining. Legislative authority allows the Commission to establish two more of these areas, and plans are being developed now for construction of the next one in northern Virginia.

The neat, well equipped camp ground on the area features space for up to 20 tents. A modern rest room and a well fulfill the needs of the campers in this secluded spot.



GOOD LUCK (You'll Need It!)



YOU may think it is skill, experience, and woodcraft that bring success—and it does take all these—but there is a lot of just plain good luck involved in the bagging of a trophy wild turkey gobbler in the springtime; and unless your good luck holds to the very end, the turkey's will!

Probably the first element of luck, good or bad, which you will encounter on a spring gobbler hunt is the weather. There is no way of controlling it, and no foolproof method even of predicting it. But weather has a powerful influence on gobblers' activities, and if the birds do not act as they are expected to most hunters will be out of luck. Gobblers like to do their strutting and bragging on bright, warm spring mornings. A spell of unseasonable wintry weather, such as that which coincided with last year's spring gobbler hunt, cools off their enthusiasm for courting considerably and on a particularly cold and rainy morning they are likely to put the whole business off until another day. But when the sun "comes up like thunder" on a still morning the last week in April, and its very first rays cast a warmth through the green woodland canopy that promises shirt-sleeve weather by noon, then indeed is the turkey hunter in luck—at least as far as the weather is concerned.

The next element of luck in gobbler hunting involves being in the right place when daylight comes and the first crow calls ring out. You will want to be where you can hear the gobbler when he first sounds off before flying from his roost, and where he also can hear your call. Here you can do a bit more than you can do about the weather to influence the odds in your favor. There is nothing like prefacing your predawn hike into the woods with a little scouting of the territory the afternoon before. "Putting a gobbler to bed" by hearing him gobble before flying up to his roost not only provides something of a hedge against a futile trip to the wrong ridge the next morning, but also adds enough excitement and anticipation of success to make the extra effort more than worth while.

There is more than a little luck involved in the matter of hunter competition, too. Any old gobbler who has lived long enough to become boss of his neck of the woods is more likely to confound even the best turkey caller on any particular morning than he is to get himself shot at, and when two or more eager hunters try to approach his strutting ground and vie for his attention the probability of spooking him becomes so great that it is almost a certainty.

Spring gobbler hunting has been a fast growing sport in Virginia these last few years, and for good reasons. It is an exciting and challenging kind of hunting that calls for the ultimate in skill, woodsmanship and patience in addition to luck. The old gobbler has the keenest pair of eyes and the

sharpest pair of ears in the woods, and while there is lots of room for variations in tone and arrangement of the yelps, clucks, putts and whines used by successful turkey callers there isn't the slightest bit of leeway for any sound coming from the turkey bone or cedar box that doesn't sound exactly like a turkey. Furthermore, there is a lot more to be gained than just the bagging of a gobbler, for the spring hunt provides an excuse to get out and enjoy a few hours of woodland solitude when nature is at her very best. And above all, this is a type of sport which can be enjoyed wherever there are a reasonable number of turkeys without any risk of depleting the stock through overkill.

This last point still is not fully understood and appreciated by many hunters and conservationists. The spring gobbler hunting season follows the normal mating period of the wild turkey, and commences when the hens are deserting the gobblers and going off by themselves to begin their laying and nesting. The removal of excess males of the species, after brood production has been left entirely in the competent hands of the hens, has no effect upon the size or abundance of the following fall's wild turkey flocks. This contention of game biologists, who know the life history and habits of the wild turkey best, has been proved over and over again, and in many places in Virginia during the past four years. Spring gobbler hunting came to the state on an experimental basis in 1961 on a few selected wildlife management areas. The next year it was tried out in four counties, then in 43 counties, and last year in 63 counties. Studies showed that in every case annual reproduction and hunting success the following fall was not at all adversely affected where spring gobbler hunting was permitted as compared to adjoining areas where it was prohibited.

Last season's turkey hunting results were particularly revealing. A total of 1438 more turkeys were killed throughout the state in 1964-65 than in the fall-winter season the year before, in spite of the fact that the short season and delayed fall opening date adopted in 1963 for the eastern part of the state remained in effect. In fact, in spite of the tightened fall hunting restrictions, the 1964-65 fall-winter kill was greater than that recorded in 1962-63 when the regulations were more liberal. The increase in fall turkey hunting success, after several years of steady decline, immediately followed the extension of spring gobbler hunting from 43 to 63 of the counties and, significantly, *70% of the recorded increase in fall-winter kill came from counties in which gobbler hunting was permitted the previous spring*. Biologists have never maintained that spring gobbler hunting would increase fall turkey populations—only that it would not affect the fall populations adversely. They seem to have proved their point.

And now we have another spring hunt coming on. This year it will be extended to seven hunting days—April 24 to May 1—to include two Saturdays, and 63 counties will be permitted to participate. So good hunting, and good luck, Mr. Turkey Hunter; you will need every bit of it you can get, along with all the preparation, skill, patience, and turkey lore you can muster. But if you use any judgment at all in selecting the territory you hunt, and apply only the most rudimentary still hunting technique in search of your quarry, you should at least hear one gobbler within calling distance, and that alone will make your trek into the woodland, at this most beautiful and inspiring time of year, fully worth while.

an easy guide to — Trouting Types —

By H. LEA LAWRENCE
Nashville, Tennessee

OUTDOORSMEN spend a great deal of time learning to identify various things in their fields of interest—trees, insects, fish, animals, etc.—but, oddly enough, they seldom pay much attention to those things which they are most closely allied with: their companions.

Generally, they are content to give the broad area of definition to the sports—hunting or fishing. And, of course, there is a further breakdown in these two areas. Fishing, as an example, includes trout fishing, bass fishing, bream fishing, salt water fishing, catfish fishing, and many others. But within each of these categories lies fertile ground for those who may wish to exercise their curiosity.

Trout fishermen, for instance, may appear to be all much the same to those who don't indulge in the sport, but among the trouting fraternity there are definite types which can be accurately identified once the characteristics are known.

Actually, it's much like bird watching, in many respects, because sometimes a particular type can be spotted with nothing more than a glance; in other cases a longer look may be required, since some of the habits that are dead giveaways aren't prominently displayed.

So, as a guide for new troutiers, the following well-established types are listed, along with the most simple means of identification. A little practice will bring proficiency. And while spotting them is interesting and challenging, it can also be fun. Sometimes one can observe several of them on a single trip!



ROSE-BILLED BOTTLE CLUTCHER—An annoying species, since it begins the day with a pull on the bottle and proceeds to follow this with additional pulls at frequent intervals. Occasionally this species can be observed sitting neck-deep in a stream, or sprawled out on the bank, sound asleep. Manages to go for long periods without catching a single fish, but when questioned will spend much time describing his prowess.



BANDY-LEGGED ROAD RUNNER—An interesting species which can easily be identified by its continual flitting about from place to place on the stream, usually employing a road or trail paralleling the stream to increase its speed—hence the name. Unlike the more common species, it goes rapidly from one pool to another, casting in each a few times, then dashing on. This species covers more water in one day's time than any three anglers moving at a normal pace, and it often uses an automobile to get additional distance.

* * * * *

CRESTED FLY-SNITCHER—Most species depart when this one appears on the scene, for its most common habit is that of begging flies from others it encounters. Notorious for a lack of tackle, this species will approach even strangers and beg, often with a long face and low whine. This type may go through an entire season without having to purchase even one fly, and it will also not hesitate to beg hooks, leaders, split shot, fly dressing and other things an angler may be carrying.



TUFTED BAIT-DUNKER—This one can be tricky to identify, since it often bears a close resemblance to the "Gaudy Tackle Toter," and may even be dressed similarly and carrying similar equipment. However, even though a quantity of flies may be evident, somewhere among the tackle items—and usually hidden—will be a can of bait. Careful observation is necessary in order to see this species secretly switch from artificials to bait. (over)

Troufing Types (Continued from page 11)

YELLOW-BELLIED POOL HOG—Commonly encountered on opening day, but can be observed throughout the season. This species pretends gregariousness, but greed is its principal motive. Whenever it spots an angler in a promising-looking pool, it charges in, ordinarily casting over the angler's line and splashing about in the water. Sometimes several gather at one pool, elbowing and shoving each other until a general din is produced. Occasionally referred to as the "stream starling."



BEWILDERED BACK-CASTER—This species has troubles of its own, although they seldom interfere with others on the stream. Most often seen untangling a leader from a tree limb, or attempting to disengage a fly from some part of its clothing or its anatomy. Although present on the stream, it infrequently fishes, since it spends so much time undoing the effects of back-casts which, naturally, go afoul and prevent forward cast from being completed. Can be heard muttering strong oaths if approached closely.



GAUDY TACKLE TOTER—One of the most easily recognized of all species. This one can be seen at a distance due to the large quantity of tackle it carries, and because of the bright attire. Every conceivable item of fishing gear will be attached to it—landing net; jacket with a hundred pockets, all chock-full; hunting knife; compass; rain jacket, etc.—with most of it looking brand-new. Usually carries several thousand flies at all times.

* * * * *

FLEET-FOOTED VIOLATER—One of the toughest of all species to locate or observe, since it often moves about at night or sneaks in at periods when other fishermen are prevented by law from doing so. Has a habit of following stocking trucks, remaining just far enough behind so that it is not seen taking whatever quantity of fish it can catch. Some are occasionally taken into captivity by game and fish officers.

* * * * *

There are others, of course, and some which are known by different names in various parts of the country. Some of these colloquial names are very colorful, although listing them here would be a breach of this magazine's policy on proper language.

But with these principal species listed, the major types can be spotted by the beginner. From that point on, the sky's the limit!

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

CONSERVATIONGRAM

Commission Activities and Late Wildlife News . . . At A Glance

7 DAY SPRING GOBBLER SEASON APPROVED.

A seven-day season for hunting bearded turkeys beginning Saturday, April 24, and ending Saturday, May 1, was adopted by the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries at their meeting in Richmond February 20. Hunting hours, as in past years, will be from one-half hour before sunrise until 10 A.M. (EST) each day. Dogs and organized drives are prohibited during spring season.

Counties included in the coming open season were as follows: Albemarle, Alleghany, Amelia, Amherst, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Brunswick, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Craig, Culpeper, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Greene, Hanover, Henrico, Henry, Highland, King George, Loudoun, Lunenburg, Madison, Meckenburg, Montgomery, Nelson, New Kent, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Prince William, Rappahannock, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Warren, Wythe and York, and Smyth, Tazewell and Washington Counties (except Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Areas). Greenville and Louisa Counties were deleted at the request of their respective boards of supervisors.

SUCCESS VARIES ON BACK BAY AREAS. Of the two waterfowl management areas opened in the Back Bay Area last fall by the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Pocahontas Area, where guides and decoys were provided at a higher fee, proved most popular. A total of 371 hunters shot waterfowl on this area during the past season, 25 of them hunting geese only and the remainder bringing in a mixed waterfowl bag. The gunners on this area killed 247 ducks and 96 geese during the season.

On the Trojan Area where hunters were furnished only blinds, 300 hunters bagged 17 geese and 64 ducks. According to Commission personnel most of the decoy rigs used on this area were entirely inadequate for good shooting. Some hunters had as few as four decoys. Rigs used on the Pocahontas Area averaged 66 decoys.

"Hunters in general seemed satisfied with both areas," said Charles P. Gilchrist, head of the Commission's Wetland Development program. The kill figures do not indicate shooting opportunity as evidenced by one party of three who fired 125 rounds to bag 7 birds and another single hunter who bagged one duck with 50 rounds. There was also a general scarcity of birds in the Back Bay Area, which affected success on public and private areas alike.

The Game Commission plans to operate these two areas in a similar manner during the 1965-66 waterfowl season. Applications will not be accepted until some future date to be announced.

ARCHERS BAG 354 DEER. Virginia archers bagged 354 deer and 2 bear during the 1964-65 hunting season, according to Game Commission tag returns. This is the best bow-hunting harvest to date and is about a 30% increase over 1962 and 1963 totals. The highest previous year was 1961-62, when the state's archers bagged 326 deer.

A total of 266 deer bagged by archers west of the Blue Ridge was largely responsible for the big increase. East of the Blue Ridge, the bow and arrow kill was 88, slightly below last year's take in this section. The kills were reported in Augusta where 36 were bagged, in Pulaski where 30 were taken and in Wythe where the bowhunters downed 26.

SPORTSMAN USE OF GAME COMMISSION LANDS HITS ALL-TIME HIGH. Sportsman use of five Game Commission Wildlife Management Areas in the northern mountain section hit a record high level during November 1964, according to Game Division personnel. These five areas recorded 10,238 hunter days, 1,544 camper days, and 16 fisherman days of use during the month of November. The Gathright Area in Bath and Alleghany Counties proved most popular with 3,150 hunter days, 900 camper days, and 16 fisherman days of use. The figures are based on estimates backed up with spot sampling counts.

Lunker League

By HARRY L. GILLAM
Information Officer



C. A. Garay of Pulaski with the 8 pound 23½ inch monster from Claytor Lake which upset the 1964 smallmouth class.

AMONG the 410 freshwater fish entered for Virginia Wildlife Trophy Fish Citations were 14 that toppled last year's best catches from their thrones and established new state records for the program. The angler's dream that there is an even bigger one just waiting to be taken from his favorite fishing spot appears not to be merely unwarranted optimism. Each year the lunker to end all lunkers is caught, but almost invariably in 12 months' time another will turn up just a little larger.

The biggest surprise of the year was the 8 pound smallmouth taken by C. A. Garay of Pulaski in Claytor Lake, which topped the 7 pound 3 ounce entry of Jesse Poore, Jr., taken from the same body of water just a few weeks earlier. Another seven pounder from New River was turned in by R. C. French just a few days later.

Although there were 195 entries in the largemouth category, none came very close to the 11 pound 8 ounce mark set in 1963. The nearest contenders were twin 10 pound 13 ounce, one from Chickahominy Lake and the other from Cheatham Lake. Judging by 1964 entries, the increase to 8 pounds in the minimum citation size for largemouths should cut the number of entries to around 100. Of these, about 50 should be eligible also for the *Sports Afield* contest where the minimum is 9 pounds.

TOP 1964 FRESH				
Species	Minimum	No. Entries	Old Record Lb.	Old Record Oz.
Carp	20	6	27	7
Channel Cat	10	30	17	10
Crappie	2½	8	3	2
Flathead Cat	20	2	28	—
Gar	10	17	15	—
Grindle	10	12	15	12
Largemouth	7	194	11	8
Largemouth Pickerel	4	33	6	4
Rock Bass	1	4	—	—
Smallmouth	4	34	6	10
Striped Bass	10	27	15	2
Striped Bass Sunfish	1	30	2	—
Brook Trout	2	2	—	—
Brown Trout	2	1	—	—
Rainbow	5	4	7	1
Walleye	8	5	11	8
White Bass	2	1	—	—
Total		410		

Action was fast and furious in the pickerel division where, out of 33 entries, one 6 pound 6 ounce beauty managed to beat last year's 6 pound 4 ounce top entry taken late in the year. George Overton landed the big pike in Burnt Mills Lake, an apparent hot spot for big pickerel.

Sunfish anglers got into the act, entering 30 over the one-pound minimum compared to only 11 entries in 1963. Most of this year's big bream came from Commission-owned Burke Lake near Fairfax, where anglers boated 22 of these scrappy pan fish which exceeded one pound in weight. However, the largest entry for the year was taken in a private pond by Vincent Garrenton of Portsmouth.



At the left is Vincent Garrenton, Jr., of Portsmouth with his fine 2 pound 2½ ounce bluegill, the best entered to date in the Virginia Wildlife Trophy Fish Citation program.



On the left Denny Nichols of Allisonia hefts the 28 pound flathead cat from Big Reed Island Creek which equaled the 1963 record mark.



Although not the largest taken during the year, this 12 pound 12 ounce striper from the Roanoke River by Clifton R. Sink is enough to make any fisherman's mouth water.



George Overton's 6 pound 6 ounce pickerel nosed last year's best entry out of top spot by two ounces. George, who is from Chester, caught the big pike in Burnt Mills Lake.



Striped bass entries reached an all-time high as anglers in the Buggs Island Area began funneling in entries. The largest were a 16 pound 8 ounce striper taken in Kerr Reservoir by Mrs. Irene Cunningham of Richmond, and a like sized fish taken from the Staunton River by Harry Queillen of Brookneal.

WATER CITATION FISH

Best 1964 Catch Lb.	Oz.	Where Caught	Angler
33	2	Opossum Point	H. H. Swart
21	1	Chickahominy L.	H. W. Todd
4	8	Buggs Island	Elmo Winn
28	—	Big Reed Is. Creek	Denny Nichols
13	15	James River	H. L. Allen
17	8	Chickahominy L.	E. C. Cutright
10	13	Cheatham L.	Billy Sherrell
10	13	Chickahominy L.	G. S. Vaughan
6	6	Burnt Mills L.	G. Overton
2	2	Pigg River	J. Monaghan
8	—	New River	C. A. Garay
16	8	Kerr Reservoir	Irene Cunningham
16	8	Staunton R.	H. Queillen
2	21½	Private Pond	V. Garrenton
3	2	Quantico	W. F. Donovan
2	12	Piney River	J. C. Elder
7	12	Todd Lake	P. E. Flavin
11	12	New River	P. H. Phillips
2	5½	Claytor Lake	J. Thompson

Chickahominy Lake is the undisputed channel cat capitol since 26 of the 30 entries came from there, including the record 21 pound 1 ounce specimen entered by W. H. Todd of Newport News. In addition to accounting for 86% of the channel cat entries, Chickahominy Lake and River accounted for 60% of the citation pickerel and 25% (45) of the largemouths, all of the citation grindle, and 20% of the gar.

Water supply lakes in the Norfolk Area including Lake Kilby, Lake Cahoon, Lake Prince, West Branch Lake, Lake Meade and Burnt Mills Lake turned in a good record also with 31 citation largemouths and 6 citation pickerel. Largemouth anglers also fared well on Cheatham Lake and Big Bethel Reservoir, military lakes in the tidewater section, where they managed to land 34 citation largemouths.

Anglers on the James River managed to take 8 citation gar and 12 citation smallmouths. The Shenandoah made a showing in the smallmouth category also with 7 of citation size.

Trout anglers began to stir up some interest in citations with a total of 7 entries in the three species and a new record for the contest in each.

In spite of all this fine fishing of past years, two new records have already been set in 1965. This year's 17 pound walleye from New River has shattered the old 11 pound 12 ounce mark set in 1964, and a 7 pound pickerel has given pike fishermen something to shoot at. So, somewhere in some Virginia lake or stream, there must be a "really big" one waiting.

Harmon W. Todd of Newport News shows his 21 pound 1 ounce channel cat to a young admirer. The big cat from Chickahominy Lake is the best entered to date and easily nosed out last year's 17 pound 10 ounce record also from the same area.



Paul E. Flavin holds the 7 pound 12 ounce rainbow from Todd Lake in the Jefferson National Forest, which he managed to land on December 31 to upset the record for that species.



The 10 pound bass below entered by Kermit Dovel of Harrisonburg didn't break any records, but it's a fine fish in anybody's book. The two biggest 1964 entries beat it by only 13 ounces.



EASTERN CHIPMUNK (*Tamias striatus*)

By DOROTHY E. ALLEN
Education Officer

THE little chipmunk is a ground squirrel. He spends most of his time incessantly on the move, climbing over and about everything as if exploring. His warm, fawn-colored coat sports five lengthwise brown to blackish stripes from shoulder to rump with a buff to whitish band between the two stripes on each side. How the chipmunk got these stripes comes to us from an Eskimo legend.

A polar bear and a chipmunk, strangely enough, were the best of friends. They often took long walks together. One day while out for a stroll, they got into an argument, and the polar bear took a swipe at his little friend with one of his great big front paws. He only glazed the surface of the chipmunk's back, but his terrible claws left their mark in the form of five stripes. The Eskimos say that's why the chipmunk, to this very day, has stripes on his back.

The chipmunk's tail, which is shorter than his body, is not bushy but rather scraggly. However, he is proud of it and holds it up like a flag. If he had a bushy tail like other squirrels it would only get in his way and be a catch-all for dirt since he lives in a burrow in the ground. The chipmunk prefers to burrow in rocky soil and is partial to fence and stone walls in or near open woods. He digs a tunnel straight down into the earth and then branches off into constructing an underground apartment with a whole series of passageways and small chambers. One room serves as a nursery in the spring; other chambers are bedrooms, dining rooms, etc. Scampering around with a mixture of curiosity and shyness the chipmunk's main daily activity of gathering nuts and fruits of woody plants is pronounced in early fall. He carries this winter's food supply to his savings bank in his cheek pouches. This gives him an appearance of having a hopeless case of mumps.

In late November "Chippie" retires to his cozy burrow. He doesn't actually hibernate in Virginia but sleeps the winter away awakening on mild days and going to the pantry for a snack.

Breeding begins in the spring and continues throughout the summer. Most young are born in the nursery in a nest of dried leaves and grass in April and May and again in July and August. Females may have one or two litters a year averaging four or five young each time. At birth the babies are blind and hairless. Their striped coat begins to show up at eight days and by one month their eyes open. At five or six weeks they come out of the burrow to explore their new world. They learn to dart about trying to avoid their place in Nature's food chain, evading such enemies as the Cooper's hawk, domestic cats, bobcats, weasels, foxes, rats, owls and snakes.

Occasionally they make nuisances of themselves to homeowners by digging up and eating flower bulbs in gardens. However, most people enjoy watching them for they are easily observed during daylight, whereas most mammals are abroad at night and are not readily seen.

From the conservation standpoint chipmunks are valued. Their banking methods are such that they never overdraw their cache but make a contribution to the landscape as acorns and other nuts not eaten sprout and become trees. Chipmunks loosen the ground by burrowing and this tunneling helps aerate the soil and check rain and snow runoff.



Commission photo by Kesteloo

Fishing Headquarters

By BOB GOOCH
Troy

CAMPING is fun and, for many, a complete form of outdoor recreation within itself. For others it is a means to an end—a means by which an angler or hunter can live in a wilderness area convenient to choice fishing or hunting territory. I camp for both reasons. And often whether we just camp or I also fish or hunt depends upon how energetic I am or how inclined I am to loaf. Either way I enjoy it.

Family camping as we know it in America today is a wonderful way of getting all hands outdoors under living conditions that are far from "roughing it." Featuring running water, lighted campgrounds and masonry fireplaces, it seems to bridge the gap between the comforts of home and the ruggedness of wilderness camping.

My family has sort of grown up with the rapid upsurge of camping in Virginia state parks. Our first trip was a May weekend to Douthat when there was only one camping area and finding a site along the lakeshore presented no more of a problem than selecting the most picturesque one. Since that May weekend we have stretched our canvas in all of the Old Dominion parks and while camping has been the primary objective of such jaunts, I have also used the comfortable campgrounds as bases from which I could sample some of the state's finest fishing.

That Douthat weekend hangs in my memory—and I believe for two reasons. It was our introduction to Virginia state park camping and first impressions are usually lasting ones. The other reason is a rainbow trout that a camp-site neighbor landed a few minutes before our first Douthat breakfast.

Douthat Lake contains 70 acres of sparkling mountain water and is fed by several small streams, one of which is good trout water. While it is not a top fishing lake, its blue waters harbor some good bass (both largemouth and small-mouth), sunfish, bluegills, crappie, and an occasional brook or rainbow trout such as my camping neighbor caught. The fishing is always interesting. Located on the eastern slopes of the Allegheny Mountains, the lake is in good chain pickerel country and the pickerel fishing can at times be excellent. And that brings up another Douthat memory I cherish—a 22-inch chain that hit my battered red and white spoon one July evening just as the campfires started to flicker from the shore.

On brief visits to Douthat, the lake can keep me occupied, but if after several days I want to branch out, the Cowpasture River is nearby, as is the Jackson and a number of good trout streams. Notable are Pounding Mill Creek, Wilson Creek and Smith Creek.

Douthat State Park straddles the Alleghany-Bath line, and Sunday fishing is prohibited in both counties. Boats can be rented on the lake and there is a launching ramp for private boats. Only electric motors are permitted on the small, often crowded lake.

Westmoreland State Park is located on the Potomac River, and this is a camping trip my family enjoys in the spring. That's before the weather gets humid, and it's in the spring that the white perch fishing is at its best. There are rental boats available, but a motor is handy on the broad Potomac and you will have to bring your own. There is a

launching area for private boats. At times the striped bass fishing is also good in the Potomac.

For fresh-water fishing, Chandler's Mill Pond is just minutes away. Owned by the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, it provides fishing for largemouth bass, pickerel, bluegills and crappie. Boats can be rented on this 75 acre lake.

At Seashore State Park the other members of the family can swim and play in the sand while the anglers sample the salt-water fishing. The park fronts on the Chesapeake Bay and there is surf fishing as well as bay and inlet fishing. There are no boats in the park, but a number of local private enterprises cater to the fishing public.

In addition to the Chesapeake Bay, the other waters available to the Seashore State Park camper are Lynnhaven Inlet, Broad Bay, Linkhorn Bay and Crystal Lake.

Fishing piers provide many hours of fishing fun and there are several in the area.

Seashore State Park is located in Virginia Beach on the



Va. Conservation Dept. photo
Typical of the large, two-bedroom cabins in Virginia's state parks is this cabin at Douthat State Park, high in the Allegheny Mountains. A fishing lake and some good trout water are nearby.

Chesapeake Bay shore west of Cape Henry. Nearby are Lake Smith and Back Bay, both good largemouth bass waters if the angler desires a switch to fresh water.

Down in Halifax County, Staunton River State Park sprawls over a peninsula that juts out into Buggs Island Lake. The tip of the peninsula marks the flooded confluence of the Dan and Staunton Rivers. Both rivers are well known for their annual spawning runs of striped bass.

Staunton River State Park offers to the camping fisherman all the big water fishing 50,000-acre Buggs Island holds. In addition to striped bass, this means largemouth bass, crappie, bluegills, catfish, walleye, and sunfish. There are state-owned boats for rent and a number of boat liveries dot the long shoreline. There is also a good launching ramp in the park. Bring your own outboard motor as they are difficult to rent, and paddling is slow on a lake with an 800 mile shoreline.

As in most large reservoirs the fishing is best in spring and fall.

(Continued on next page)

In addition to the lake itself and its two feeder streams, the fishing is usually good below the dam. Some good catches of walleyes have been reported from there.

Out in Southwest Virginia in Pulaski County there is another huge lake and another convenient state park. Claytor Lake State Park is located in a wooded area adjacent to 100 mile shoreline Claytor Lake.

As is the case on all large bodies of water, the vacationing fisherman must compete with water skiers and pleasure boating, but Claytor offers some good fishing. Finning the backed up waters of the New River are both largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleyes, channel cats, white bass, bluegills, crappie, yellow perch and bullheads. October is considered one of the best fishing months with May and June also good.

There are rental boats, a launching area and a good dock, but the fisherman will have to furnish his own motor.

In addition to the large lake, nearby Big Island Creek, Little Walker Creek and the New River provide stream fishing.

Fairystone State Park in Patrick County can be comfortable headquarters for a wide variety of fresh-water fishing.

First there is the 168-acre park lake, well stocked with largemouth bass, bluegills and crappie. Boats can be be rented at the park concession.

The big angling attraction at Fairystone, however, is Philpott Reservoir. 2,880 acres of cool mountain water. The impoundment was built by the Corps of Engineers with the construction of the dam completed in 1953. The Philpott Reservoir area adjoins Fairystone. Fishing on the lake is not permitted within 1,000 feet of the dam.

Boats can be rented on the lake, but the wise fisherman will lug his own motor.

A wide variety of finny Old Dominion gamesters await the angler who can outwit them. Present are both largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, bluegills, rock bass, sunfish and some trophy-size rainbow trout. While the trout do not spawn in the lake, planted fingerlings do well and this is the course the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries is now following. Periodic stockings are made to sustain this trout fishery.

Philpott straddles the Smith River, and the cold water

Based at Seashore State Park anglers can sample a variety of salt, brackish, or fresh water fishing while other members of the family swim or just enjoy the sunshine and sand.



pouring out from the base of the dam provides high quality trout water. This low water temperature is maintained for several miles downstream, and makes this section of the Smith River one of the best trout streams in the state. It is also a large stream, the type of trout water that is at a premium in Virginia. Any fisherman camping in Fairystone owes it to himself to pull on his waders and try this fishing. There is plenty of room for a long cast, and the cold of the icy water will penetrate your waders.

Hungry Mother State Park in far western Smyth County bases the angler and his family close to the North, South and Middle Forks of the Holston River system. These are cold water streams featuring smallmouth bass, rock bass and sunfish plus brook, brown and rainbow trout in the upper stretches. And a few miles southwest of the park, South Holston Lake backs into the Old Dominion from its high dam in Tennessee.

Hungry Mother Lake, with boats for the fisherman, provides angling for largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, sunfish and bluegills. This is a very pretty lake of 108 acres that wind among the picturesque mountains of Southwest Virginia. Electric motors only may be used on the lake.

Like Douthat, Hungry Mother is in trout country. Big Laurel Creek, Hurricane Branch, Lick Creek, and Nicks Creek all tumble through Smyth County.

A recently added attraction to this area is the pay-as-you-go fee trout stream in the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Big Tumbling Creek is managed in this manner, and during the past season 44,444 trout ended up in lucky anglers' creels. Clinch Mountain is an easy drive from Hungry Mother.

Virginia's state parks are not fishing camps, however, and while they are comfortable and convenient, the angler must shift for himself. This adds to the fun.

To my knowledge none of the parks offer natural baits for sale, but here again private enterprise is usually close at hand, whether the need be for bloodworms to fish the Potomac or salamanders for Lake Douthat.

During the peak of the camping season, the majority of park personnel are temporary and for the most part unfamiliar with local fishing conditions. The anglers may have to turn elsewhere for information on local waters. Local game wardens and tackle stores are good sources.

I have found that most family campers like to sleep late, and rather than disturb them with the noise of preparing an early breakfast, I do most of my fishing before breakfast and after the evening meal. This puts me on the water at the most productive times and I do not have to disturb my family or camping neighbors.

In some states where the fishing interest is high, park authorities have constructed special fish cleaning facilities and these would be an asset in our own state parks. Until that is done I keep the mess out of camp by cleaning the fish on the lake or stream.

While we are concerned here with family camping and getting a little extra mileage out of a camping vacation, actually Virginia state parks are now open all year. The facilities are not as complete as during the summer months, but they are still available and just as convenient to the fishing waters of your choice.

There you have it. Name the type of Old Dominion fishing you prefer and chances are that close by there is a comfortable state park to serve as your fishing headquarters.

Latest Evaluations of Foreign Game Bird Introductions

COUNTY	SPECIES
	<i>Best Prospects</i>
Accomack	Japanese green pheasant
Charles City	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Giles	Kalij pheasant
Northampton	Japanese green pheasant

	<i>Fair Prospects</i>
Campbell	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Charlotte	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Cumberland	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Greensville	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Lancaster	Japanese green pheasant
Nansemond	Japanese green pheasant
Nelson	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
New Kent	Western Iranian blackneck pheasant
Norfolk	Japanese green pheasant
Northumberland	Japanese green pheasant
Nottoway	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Orange	Eastern Iranian blackneck pheasant
Page	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Prince George	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid

	<i>Poor Prospects</i>
Buckingham	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Fluvanna	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Goochland	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Halifax	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
King George	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
King William	Western Iranian blackneck pheasant
Lancaster	Black francolin partridge
Powhatan	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Richmond	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Surry	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid and black francolin partridge

Releases Too Recent for Evaluation

Chesterfield	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Fauquier	Japanese green pheasant
Halifax	Black francolin partridge
Hanover	Iranian blackneck-Chinese ringneck hybrid
Henry	Kalij pheasant
Isle of Wight	Western Iranian blackneck pheasant
Loudoun	Japanese green pheasant
Shenandoah	Japanese green pheasant

I HUNTED FRANCOLIN AND KALIJ PHEASANT IN THEIR NATIVE LANDS

By D. T. PAINTER
Independence

IT was good to come home after spending some two years in Pakistan and India as agricultural advisor to their governments under the U. S. Foreign Operations Administration, better known as the Point IV or technical assistance program. We do not really appreciate our own wonderful country until we see how the other half or two-thirds of the world lives, with the number one problem for most of the people being that of extracting from their land the barest essentials of life—food, clothing and shelter.

When working with the farmers through their agricultural officials, in conducting fertilizer demonstrations, and in introducing better seed, improved livestock, conservation practices, reforestation, irrigation and better farming equipment, I was extended invitations by several of the Zamindars (large landowners) to come back and hunt with them on week ends—invitations which I usually accepted. This enabled me to become familiar with many of the game birds and animals of India and Pakistan, and provided a wonderful opportunity to hunt in their own native habitat some of the game birds which are now being propagated and released in Virginia under the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries' Foreign Game Bird Introduction Program.

The number of game birds and animals, especially in India, is unbelievable. Here in a densely populated country of over 140 million people, where most of the arable land is used to grow food, feed grains and other crops, there is an abundance of the francolin partridges, junglefowl, kalij pheasants and coturnix quail, all of which have been included in experimental propagation and releases in Virginia in recent years. My hunting experience also included the shooting of sand grouse, imperial bustards, chukars, snow cocks, peafowl and a variety of ducks and geese.

(Continued on next page)

Although the author knows the kalij pheasant as a fine, grouse-like game bird in its native haunts, this one was "shot" by a photographer as it perched in a Virginia scrub pine tree.



Big Game

In the spring of my second year assignment, some friends in New Delhi invited me to go on a tiger hunt with them in India. They had secured a ten-day permit to shoot tiger and other game in the state forest of the United Province, about 350 miles northwest of Delhi in the jungle-clad foothills of the Himalaya Mountains. We hunted mostly in the famous shooting block known as the "Hathi Kund" area of the UP forest. During this hunt we were fortunate to shoot two tigers, a leopard, several sambars, chital or spotted deer, karkar or barking deer, and a rare four horned antelope called chousingha, a number of black bucks, nilgai and gazelles in the plains, plus a 14-foot crocodile on the Ganges. We also encountered some wild elephants while hunting swamp and hog deer in high grass near a dense forest along the Ganges River.

Tigers are nocturnal and difficult to locate in the thick jungles where they stay during the day. However, our *shikari* (native hunter) had located areas some tigers were using in certain sections of our 15 by 20 mile shooting block, and had also staked out three half-grown domestic buffaloes as "live bait" in such areas when we arrived at



The author with his 400 pound, nine foot long, male tiger.

the forest bungalow. The following night one of the buffaloes was killed and about half eaten by a tiger. The next morning our *shikari* built a *machan* or blind in a tree about 40 yards from the carcass which had been partly hidden in the jungle underbrush by the tiger. We matched coins to see who would sit up over the kill that night with the native hunter in the *machan*. I won the toss, and the *shikari* and I climbed into the blind about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. We had a powerful flashlight which he was to hold on the tiger when it came back to feed on the remainder of the buffalo after dark, and I was to do the shooting with my Winchester .375 magnum rifle. We kept as quiet as possible and around 7:30 p.m., while there was still enough light to see, a large tiger returned to the kill and started feeding on it. I shot him twice in and back of the shoulders

and he fell dead about ten feet from the carcass. This tiger weighed around 400 pounds and measured over 9 feet long. While we waited in the *machan* for the rest of our hunting party to pick us up in a jeep, and just about dark, a family of *langurs* (monkeys) came thrashing through the top of the trees where our *machan* was, and I nearly jumped out of my skin thinking that another tiger or a leopard was trying to get into the blind with us.

One of my friends from Delhi killed another tiger a few nights later during our hunt in the Hathi Kund using the same method as described above.

On another hunting expedition in the high mountains of Hunza near K-2, and in Gilget I missed a chance at a snow leopard and Marcopolo sheep, but did bag some urials and gorals (mountain sheep and goats), and a Himalayan brown bear. Also, I shot several wild boars along the border rivers of India and Pakistan.

Game Birds

Probably the most popular and abundant game birds in India and Pakistan are the francolins—the black and the gray partridges. The gray francolin is a bird of more arid country, while the black francolin prefers a habitat more comparable to our own relatively humid environment.



A family of monkeys went thrashing through the treetops.

which accounts for its selection over the gray partridge for experimental releases in Virginia. In their own native land they are found mostly in the alluvial plains in high grass along the river and often in crop fields adjoining scrub jungle and sandy waste land. Usually they are walked up with the help of a few beaters. When flushed they fly strongly and straight away, affording reasonably good shots for the gunners. Several birds often are found together in good cover, but they get up one, two or three at a time rather than rising as a covey. Possibly I shot more francolin partridges than any other game birds while I was over there. My hosts could not understand how I could kill more of them at greater ranges with my 20 gauge gun than they could with their 12 gauges. In fact, most of them had never seen a shotgun smaller than 12 gauge. The secret was that

I was using high-powered American ammunition, and they were using only standard loads from England or Europe.

However, my favorite wing shooting sport was hunting the junglefowl in and along the edges of the forest areas and farming land. The red junglefowl is practically indistinguishable from the old English game chicken and is probably the ancestor of most of our domestic poultry. In fact, the calls of both sexes resemble those of our domestic fowls, including the crowing. We hunted them in a manner similar to the way we hunted ruffed grouse at home without dogs, but with the help of some native beaters, and we were usually successful in getting our limit. Hitting them in thick cover was as difficult as grouse shooting, and possibly that is why I liked to hunt them so well. Junglefowl cannot take the cold of Virginia winters, however, and after it was found that these birds suffer frozen feet and other cold weather maladies even under game farm conditions, efforts to bring them to Virginia were abandoned.

While hunting junglefowl we also shot kalij pheasants, usually finding them in thick underbrush on the sides of ravines. This is a splendid game bird, with beautiful plumage, that inhabits grouse-type habitat. The males weigh around two pounds, which is about the same size as the

I learned to respect their customs and traditions, and as a result have become much more tolerant of other people's way of life. Probably one of the most tangible accomplishments of our technical assistance program during my two-year assignment (while on leave from VPI Agricultural Extension Service) was the introduction of the use of fertilizer in connection with their "Grow More Food Program," as both countries were facing a very critical shortage of food at the time. The use of chemical fertilizers was an entirely new practice for 99% of their farmers. Increased yields of food grains from the use of fertilizer was estimated at over 20 million bushels, based on the results of some 600 fertilizer demonstration plots on wheat and rice throughout the various provinces. The average increase in yields was a remarkable 8 to 10 more bushels of wheat and from 10 to 12 additional bushels of rice per acre.

Our present AID program is in over twenty underdeveloped free countries of the world at the expressed invitation of the government. American technicians are making their "know and show-how" available on a number of various projects relating to the countries' particular problems. Agriculture takes priority in many of these countries, where about 80% of the people are engaged in farming or



While the francolins (left) were the most popular and abundant game birds in India and Pakistan, the author liked best of all to shoot junglefowl (center) and kalij pheasants which he found to be much like grouse shooting. Although the junglefowl cannot take Virginia's winter weather, the kalij shows signs of becoming established in our Appalachian region. At right, author displays crocodile shot along the Ganges River.

junglefowl cocks.

Around Thanksgiving and Christmas time it was no trouble to drive out to a forest area adjoining some crop field and shoot a few young peafowl. They are wary and shy in their wild state and will run very fast, as a wild turkey often does, before taking flight from the fields to the woodlands. The beaters try to flush them in an open area, and hunters stay along the edge of the forest and shoot them as they fly to cover. The young birds weigh from 6 to 9 pounds and are as good as any turkey you ever ate.

I enjoyed my work in Pakistan and India, as both the officials and farmers were very cooperative. I admired their courage and determination to have an independent country of their own in spite of their many problems. Moreover,

related activities.

My work was largely teaching and showing the Pakistan and Indian farmers through their Agricultural departments, agricultural colleges and experiment stations how to produce more food and fiber, improve livestock, and conserve and develop basic agricultural resources.

Hunting and fishing with them, as well as working with them, allowed me to get better acquainted with a number of the leading farmers, and led to some unforgettable experiences. I had wonderful brown trout and mahseer fishing in the mountain rivers of these countries during my two year stay, which led to encounters with king cobra, python, and kraits while fishing along a jungle stream. But that is another story—and an experience I do not want to go through again.

Hanover Ruritans Seek More Ducks, Quail

THERE will be more wood ducks, quail and songbirds in Hanover County this summer and fall if the Conservation Committee of the Courthouse Ruritan Club has its way, and it looks very much as if they are going to. The Committee chose as its projects for 1964 the construction of nesting boxes for wood ducks and other birds, and the distribution of hundreds of pounds of game bird food patch seed for planting by club members. Eleven duck nesting boxes plus a number of songbird boxes have gone up in Hanover County as a result, and numerous food patches are being planted for the benefit of next fall's coveys. Available food, cover, and nesting sites, rather than hunting pressure, limit the numbers of most wild bird species, both game and non-game. If more organizations throughout the state would follow the example of the Hanover Courthouse Ruritan Club, more abundant wildlife populations would be assured.

Commission photos by Kesteloo and Gillam



E. M. "Buck" Lisle puts the finishing touches on one of several wood duck nesting boxes.



Above, left: Farm manager Richard R. "Buddy" Taylor and W. C. Wickham look over one of last year's quail food patch plantings. Above, right: Game Warden W. R. Redford, chairman of the Hanover Courthouse Ruritan Club Conservation Committee, compares wood duck nesting boxes with "Buck" Lisle. Below, left: "Buddy" Taylor points out where quail have been using food patch. Below, right: Eugene Peace (in tree) and Mike Woods have found an ideal spot for wood duck nesting box.





Edited by HARRY GILLAM

Recreation Sticker Coming Outdoor Recreation



United States Government Federal Recreation Area Annual Permit No. 000,000

Recreationists throughout the nation may soon see the first visible evidence of the Soil and Water Conservation Fund Act passed by Congress last fall in the form of this conservation sticker to go on sale soon. The price of the green and white sticker will not exceed \$7.00 although the exact fee has not yet been set. The permit will admit a private non-commercial automobile to certain designated areas of the National Parks or National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and other federal recreation areas where an entrance fee is required. The areas to be so designated are now being determined by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

Funds from the sale of this sticker, along with the proceeds from individual entrance fees, will be accumulated as part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Monies from this fund will be used both to finance federal recreation projects and for a federal assistance program to states for similar projects on the state and local level.

Essay Total Sets Record

Nearly 16,000 essays were submitted by students in the 18th Annual Wildlife Essay Contest, considerably above the previous high mark of 13,694 set in 1963. The number of schools with 100% participation also rose from 18 last year to 32 in the contest just ended.

Augusta County had four such schools, Washington County had three, and a number of counties had two each.

Some \$3,000 in prize money has been made available for participating students in grades 5-12 by the sponsoring organizations, the Virginia Game Commission and the Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League of America. Top winners will be honored at ceremonies in Richmond April 30.

It's Smaller Than You Think

Why is it "the big ones" always get away? They *aren't* always the big ones and Dick Wolff, sport fishing authority and vice-president of the Garcia Corporation, has compiled some pretty impressive statistics to support this claim.

For a number of years Garcia has been conducting "fish in the barrel" contests at retail sporting goods shops all over the nation. Inside a barrel is a weight that contestants cannot see. The weight is attached by a line to a rod and reel. Thousands of contestants have lifted the hidden weight with the rod and then estimated how much the "fish in the barrel" weighed.

About 90% of all entries in the Garcia contests guess high. Twenty-six percent estimate one to three pounds too high. Only 4% of the many thousands of guessers come within several ounces of the actual weight, while fewer than 6% underestimate the weight of the "fish in the barrel."

259 Bears Bagged Last Season

Virginia hunters bagged a total of 259 bears during the 1964-65 season. The highest kill was in Augusta County where 44 were taken, followed closely by Rockingham with 41. Sixteen of the bears were killed in the Dismal Swamp area and the rest were bagged in the western part of the state.

This was a decided drop from the 375 record bagged in the state last year, but the decrease was predicted by biologists on the basis of reduced mast and previous fluctuation data.

Ten Deer Downed With Pistols In West

Pistol enthusiasts managed to bag ten deer west of the Blue Ridge during the 1964-65 hunting season, the first year that hunting game species with pistols has been permitted in this section. Game Commission game tag returns revealed. Hunters were permitted to use pistols or revolvers .23 caliber or larger, developing at least 350 foot pounds muzzle energy (manufacturer's rating), for taking all game except migratory game birds and furbearers during proper season west of the Blue Ridge. In eastern counties the use of pistols is restricted to predatory and undesirable species. During the past season a number of hunters were reported to have violated state statute (not a hunting law) by carrying pistols concealed while in the field.

Big Pike



A nice 5 pound 10 ounce pickerel submitted for a trophy fish citation by Salem P. Wilson, Jr., of Richmond.

Claytor Lake Smallmouth



Jim Rutherford's photo
A 6 pound 8 ounce smallmouth taken from Claytor Lake late last summer by E. J. Weeks of Radford. The trophy was mounted by Kenneth Hite, Radford taxidermist.



YOUTH AFIELD



Edited by DOROTHY ALLEN

Conservation Study

The fifth-grade students at Chancellor Elementary School in Spotsylvania incorporate into their social studies, programs and projects on conserving our natural resources.

Instrumental in this instruction is Mrs. Sarah H. Tompkins. Mrs. Tompkins attended the three-week conservation short course at William and Mary College in Williamsburg. The short course is sponsored by the Resource-Use Education Council.

Special emphasis was given to the program during Conservation Week in November when the children prepared booklets, projects, plays, poems and posters, all dealing with conservation. Forty-eight of the posters have been entered in a state-wide contest. The students have also written essays that have been entered in the 18th Annual Wildlife Essay Contest.

Mrs. Tompkins is to be congratulated on the fine job she is doing with her students in such worth-while conservation work.



Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star photo
Mrs. Tompkins and her 5th graders with their conservation projects.

Right: two successful anglers proudly show their catch. Steve Greene of Dunbar with his Uncle Staley Greene of Richmond.

Successful Anglers



IWLA Awards Prizes for Outstanding Wildlife Food Plots

Each spring, the Fredericksburg-Rappahannock IWLA Chapter sponsors a wildlife food patch contest in the three nearby counties of Spotsylvania, Stafford and Caroline. The following fall brings the food patch judging and the anxious hope of the 4-H and F.F.A. boys who have worked so hard to raise the fruitful plot of wildlife food.

The chapter furnished the seed (provided by Virginia Game Commission) to be used and a set of rules to guide the contestants. In addition to judging the yield and seeing if the eight different varieties of plants in the seed mixture have successfully produced food for wildlife, each contestant must write a short essay telling the value of his plots. The Izaak Walton League gave the first three prizes in the four area high schools—\$25.00, first prize; \$15.00, second prize; and \$10.00, third prize. The fourth prize, started this year, was donated by Skachet, Inc., of Springfield, Virginia. It is a sportsman tool that is worn on the belt in a leather case that can be used as an axe, knife or a hammer.

Awards were made during the December meeting at the IWLA Chapter Park in Spotsylvania County by the Game Commission Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement, R. S. Purks. Stafford County Game Warden F. C. Boggs, Conservation Chairman, presented Wickam

Coleman, Jr., Vocational Agriculture teacher from the C. T. Smith High School, with a certificate of award from the local League chapter for outstanding work with his students in conservation. Warden Boggs also reported that the contest was an incentive for the planting of 244 food patches or 30½ acres of food for small game.

This year's winners were:

Outstanding Teacher—

Wickam Coleman, Jr.

Spotsylvania High School—

1st—W. D. Harris

2nd—Randall Mastin

3rd—Henry Williams

4th—Sherman Stevens

Stafford High School—

1st—Steve Beach

2nd—Gary K. Beach

3rd—Michael Clark

4th—Bobby Terry

Caroline High School—

1st—Archie Brooks, Jr.

2nd—Billy Cecil

3rd—Bill Dustin

4th—Tommy Loving

C. T. Smith High School—

1st—Dabney Allen

2nd—James Durrett

3rd—Wallace Janish

4th—Leo Satterwhite

—(Submitted by Warden F. C. Boggs)

See opposite page
for picture

Proud Nimrod



The proud young nimrod above is Louis Wood, eleven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Wood, 715 Aintree Place, Staunton, who killed a doe the first time he went deer hunting. Louis was hunting Saturday, January 2, in Albemarle County with his father and friends from Staunton and Augusta County as guests of Mr. Samuel P. Goodloe of Afton.



Riverheads FFA Chapter Stresses Wildlife Conservation

Each year as part of its program of work, the Riverheads Chapter Future Farmers of America undertakes many objectives to aid wildlife. One of the more important is the seeding of annual game bird mixture food plots as winter feed for wildlife. The Augusta County Chapter Izaak Walton League of America sponsors a contest each year and presents rifles to the three boys whose food plots were judged best. Working closely with the FFA boys and advising them is Jack Todd, game warden for Augusta county. Mr. Todd is shown in photo supervising the seeding of one of the food patches. Advisors to the Riverheads FFA Chapter are D. A. Jenkins and D. Mason Ware, Vocational Agriculture instructors.

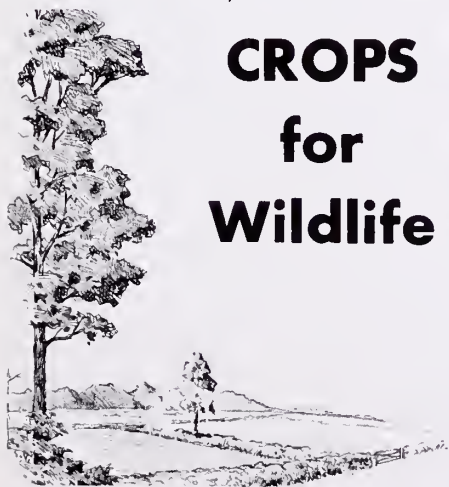
—Riverheads FFA Chapter

At right:

Tom Burgess, vo-ag teacher at Tunstall High School, visits plot of Arthur Pruitt who won first place in chapter; second place in the county.

Gretna's Ronnie Saunders inspects his wildlife plot with his vocational agriculture teacher, A. G. Culbertson. Saunders won first place in county contest.

Game Commission Biologists Hal Myers and Kit Shaffer inspect Ronnie Saunders' winning food patch.



CROPS for Wildlife



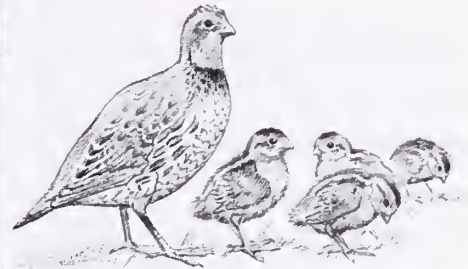
Wildlife Seed Plots

Ronnie Saunders, a third-year vocational agriculture student at Gretna High School, was winner of the 1964-65 Pittsylvania County FFA Wildlife Seed Plot Contest sponsored by the county's Izaak Walton League Chapter.

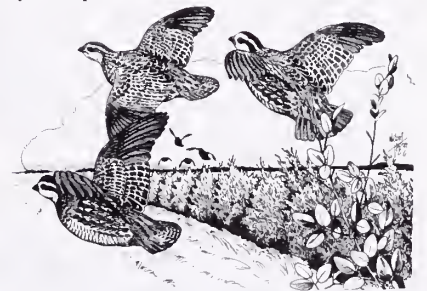
Runner-up in the conservation program was Arthur Pruitt of the Tunstall Chapter. He was followed by Tommy

Belcher, Jr., of the Dan River Chapter, and Kent Parson from the new Chatham FFA organization. Each of the four boys won over their fellow members in their respective schools.

The winners represented some 400 vo-ag students in the county, and most of them seeded one or more wildlife patches in addition to distributing some 1,000 bags of seeds to farmers and 500 pairs of breeding quail this year.



At a special ceremony in November certificates and cash awards were presented to the four winners by A. L. Haymes, President of the Pittsylvania I.W.L.A. In presenting the awards Haymes said the I.W.L.A. was glad to have a part in encouraging farm boys to practice wildlife conservation.



Sam Pickrel, Pittsylvania County Game Warden, said the winning seed patches were graded and selected at each school by the vocational agriculture teachers. The final selection for the county was made by Kit Shaffer and Hal Myers, representatives of the Game Commission, who remarked that the plots this year were some of the best ever judged by them.

During the past six years, the Gretna FFA chapter has won the county wildlife feed plot contest three times.



Warden Trainee L. R. Buchanan and Warden F. C. Boggs inspect W. D. Harris' winning food patch.

ON THE WATERFRONT

Edited by JIM KERRICK

Spring Check-up

The four most important things to check when readying your outboard motor for spring are ignition system, fuel system, lower unit and propeller.

First, let's start by removing the spark plugs from the motor. Check the plugs for fouling, cracking and burning. If the plugs do not appear to be in good shape, throw them away and replace them. On the other hand if your plugs appear to be in good shape they can be cleaned, gapped, and replaced in your motor. Be sure that the plug wires are not broken and there are no bare spots that could cause a short or possibly a spark and explosion or fire.

Second, the fuel lines should be examined to be sure that they have no breaks or pin holes in them. Drain your fuel tank to be sure that no water has accumulated during the lay-up. Remove the fuel filter bowl and remove all of the sediment; replace the gaskets if they are deteriorated.

Next, check the level of the lower unit lubricant. If it was not changed last fall, it should be changed now. One thing that a great many of us fail to do is lubricate our motor. See that

all parts are oiled or greased with proper lubrication recommended by your dealer. This is a MUST.

Then check the propeller on your motor for nicks and bends. A nicked or bent prop can cause damage to your motor as well as loss of power. Either replace the prop or have it repaired.

Be sure that all screws, nuts and tie-downs are tight.

You should inspect your electrical system to be sure that all required lights are working. Check your battery. If you have not recharged your battery since you put your boat up for the winter, more than likely the battery is dead.

Your life preservers, anchor lines, steering cables and emergency equipment should be examined to insure they are in good shape and working order.

Now, that did not take long after all. More than likely you did not have to replace a single item. But you have taken a long step toward insuring yourself, and others who will be boating with you, a trip that will be pleasant and unmarred by mechanical breakdown.

Boating on Increase

For the third straight year the pleasure boating industry chalked up impressive gains in almost every category during 1964, according to the annual joint statistical report compiled by the Outboard Boating Club of America and the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers.

Sales of outboard motors were up 29,000 over those of 1963, and outboard boat sales increased 13,000 over that year.

Nationwide, 38,500,000 persons participated in recreational boating in 1964 in 7,700,000 boats of every description.

American families invested \$2,605,000,000 at the retail level for new and used boats, marine accessories and services.

Secret Pocket

A new lightweight cap designed especially for the outboarder is now available which contains a detachable waterproof pocket that snaps inside the crown of the cap and which will hold credit cards, currency, cigarettes, keys or charts, etc. This cap is particularly valuable in that it will float, and when the boater is in bathing attire or dressed for a short cruise with clothing without pockets, the necessary items are always available and in no danger of getting wet.

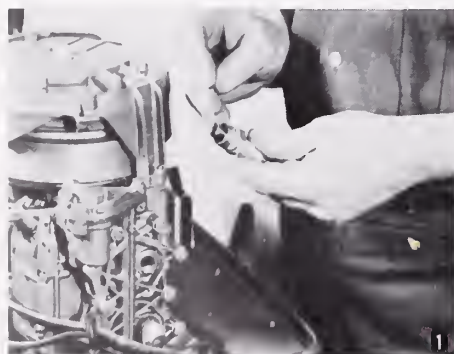
Education Pays Off

During the period July through December 1963, 804 boat operators were convicted of one or more violations of the Motorboat Safety Act. During the same period for the year 1964 only 552 were convicted, a decrease of 31 percent over 1963.

This simply means the boating public is becoming more and more aware of their responsibility concerning boat registration, safety and equipment requirements through the courts, boating safety classes, and boating literature put out by the Virginia Commission, U. S. Coast Guard, American Red Cross and numerous other organizations which promote boating safety.

Check, repair, replace, be safe.

Photos courtesy Evinrude Motors





*Bird
of the
Month:*

Redwinged Blackbird

By DOCTOR J. J. MURRAY
Lexington

THE redwinged blackbird was probably the first land bird to be noticed by the early colonists, for even before they landed at Jamestown they undoubtedly saw this bird in great numbers in the marshes along the James. William Strachey, in *The Historie of travaile into Virginia Brittania* (1610-12), speaks of "black byrds, with redd shoulders." Captain John Smith mentioned this bird in a book printed in 1612, and still earlier in 1606 George Percy wrote of "black birds with crimson wings."

Mark Catesby, in *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahamas* (1731-43), the basis of which was his early field work in Virginia, called it the "red-wing'd Starling." He also gave the bird its first scientific name, using the cumbersome Latin title of *Sturnus niger alis superne rudentibus*, which is a description rather than a name. It has now been rebaptised with the simpler Latin name of *Agelaius phoeniceus*.

This bird occurs all over Virginia, wherever there are marshy places, from the Eastern Shore to the wider valleys of the high mountain country. In all these places it nests. The nest is usually just a few feet from the ground, fastened to reeds, or cattails, or low bushes, but I have found them as high as thirty-five feet. It is fashioned of coarse grasses and lined with finer grass. Here are laid from three to five, usually four, eggs, beautifully and heavily marked with black or purplish scrawls, hieroglyphics which only

the mother redwing can read as the promise of coming young.

Nearby the male finds a high perch where he can watch for other interfering males and sing his sweet "Kon-karee-a" song, which both warns those males and delights his mate. Pairs nest fairly close to each other in the marshes, however. In winter they gather in huge roosts, especially in Tidewater, where estimates up to two million in a scattered roost have been made.

Some time ago on this page the question of subspecies or local races was raised. Almost any bird which nests over a wide territory will show geographical variations. The pale desert song sparrow and the sooty song sparrow of the Alaskan coast look like entirely different birds, but they are known to be simply geographically varying races of the same species. The redwinged blackbird, nesting from Alaska to the Florida keys, is also very variable. In this case, however, the variations are not so much in color as in size, although one western race has no yellow with the red on the wings. Everywhere it occurs it is the same sweet singer with the same attractive habits.

Anyone who knows even half a dozen birds will be familiar with this common and lovely species. The name describes only the male. He is black all over, except for the brilliant epaulets of red, bordered by a yellow band. The quite different female and young are brownish above, with heavy stripes on the underparts.

NOTICE TO BOAT OWNERS

"It's the Law!"

Every motorboat of 10 horsepower or more must be registered with the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries.

This Certificate of Number must be carried on board whenever the boat is operated.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA COMMISSION OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES CERTIFICATE OF NUMBER

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VIRGINIA MOTORBOAT ACT AND REGULATIONS PUBLISHED PURSUANT THERETO THE NUMBER BELOW HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE VESSEL DESCRIBED HEREIN.

EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1966

Chester P. Phelps

CHESTER P. PHELPS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COMMISSION OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

YOUR NAME

MAIN STREET

ANYWHERE, VA.

REGISTRATION NUMBER

VA 0000 Z

YR. OF BIRTH & CITIZENSHIP	MAKE OF BOAT AND PRESENT NO. (IF ANY)			
38 US	CHRIS CRAFT			
16' LENGTH	W HULL	OB PROPULSION	GAS FUEL	PLEAS USE

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN STATUS OF A NUMBERED VESSEL VIRGINIA COMMISSION OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

(Boat owner must report any change in status and return certificate of numb.)

Present Owner

NAME (Please print) _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY OR TOWN _____ STATE _____

I WISH TO REPORT THAT MY ABOVE NUMBERED VESSEL HAS BEEN:

(Check Appropriate Block)

☐ LOST ☐ DESTROYED ☐ ABANDONED

SIGNATURE OF PRESENT OWNER _____ DATE _____

TRANSFERRED TO (new owner)

NAME _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY OR TOWN _____ STATE _____

If you SELL a numbered boat you are required to notify the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries on this notification form. The new owner cannot obtain a valid Certificate of Number until you do. No fee is required with this notification. (A revised form for this purpose is being issued to owners who register boats after January 1, 1965, and a special notification form is provided for use when a boat is sold or traded to a dealer.)

If you BUY a numbered boat you are required to apply for a new Certificate of Number to be issued in your name. Use this application form, and be sure to show the current boat number, if any.

A five dollar fee must accompany this application.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA APPLICATION FOR BOAT NUMBER COMMISSION OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES			EXPIRATION DATE
<p>FEES—THREE YEAR REGISTRATION ORIGINAL NO. \$5.00—TRANSFER REGISTRATION \$5.00 DEALER FEE \$15.00; MANUFACTURERS FEE \$25.00 ADDITIONAL NUMBERS FOR DEALERS AND MANUFACTURERS \$8.00 EACH MAIL WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO TREASURER OF VIRGINIA TO: BOAT SECTION, VIRGINIA GAME COMMISSION, 7 N. 2ND ST., BOX 1642, RICHMOND, VA.</p>			
FILL IN ALL ITEMS ON THIS FORM AND ON THE TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED PLEASE PRINT OR USE TYPEWRITER (See Instructions on Reverse Side)			
1. NAME OF BOAT OWNER (First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)		10. HULL MATERIAL <input type="checkbox"/> WOOD <input type="checkbox"/> STEEL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)	
STREET ADDRESS		11. PROPULSION (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> OUTBOARD	
CITY OR TOWN _____ STATE _____		12. FUEL (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> GASOLINE	
2. OWNER'S YEAR OF BIRTH	3. ARE YOU AN AMERICAN CITIZEN? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> IF NO, SPECIFY _____	13. USE (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASURE <input type="checkbox"/> LIVELY <input type="checkbox"/> DEALER <input type="checkbox"/> MANUFACTURER <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	
4. MAKE OF BOAT	5. PRESENT NUMBER (If Any)		
SERIAL NO.	7. LENGTH OVERALL IN FEET	8. YEAR BUILT (If Known)	
6. COUNTY OR CITY WHERE BOAT IS PRINCIPALLY KEPT			
9. RESERVED FOR OFFICE (Do not use this space)	14. I (WE) HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I (WE) AM (ARE) THE OWNER(S) AND CERTIFY THAT THE DESCRIPTION THEREOF AND ALL OTHER INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT.		

Forms are available from the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Box 1642, Richmond, Virginia 23213; from hunting and fishing license agencies; and from most boat dealers.